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to 31st December 1954 could not, however, be disbursed as the arrear bills of 148 teachers had to be prepared and pre-audited by the Accountant-General, Madras. The bills have since been audited and the amounts disbursed except in the case of 17 bills which are still under correspondence between the Collector of Malabar and the Accountant-General.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know the reasons why these 17 bills of the Harijan Welfare school teachers were withheld and whether the Collector has been asked by the Government to see that the payment is expedited?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : There was some difficulty in the presentation of the bills. Some errors crept into the bills. Therefore, about 12 bills were once again sent back to the Collector for re-submission. With regard to the other five bills, the pay was refixed and the exact amount was not correctly calculated. All these things are now being rectified. In the course of a month or two, I am quite sure that the Treasury Officer deputed to go into these bills will scrutinize them and will send a clean sheet to the Government.

Reprieve and remission for prisoners on the formation of Kerala and Madras States

* 309 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation in July 1956 from the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kuthuparamba, requesting the Government to consider reprieve and remission in the case of prisoners in the Madras State jails on the occasion of the formation of the Kerala and the Madras States?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The answer is in the affirmative. The Government do not consider it necessary to grant a general amnesty in celebration of the reorganization of States.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Apart from the question of a general or universal amnesty, may I know whether marks could be assigned to these prisoners by treating those who have undergone four years' imprisonment as equivalent to five years' imprisonment and so on. Such a thing is done when there is general jubilation all over the country. May I know whether there is any such proposal under contemplation?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No, Sir.

Plague establishment

* 310 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to disband the plague establishment working under the Director of Public Health?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No, Sir.